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FOR OES NANCY POWELL  
USDA FOR FAS/OA, FAS/DLP, FAS/ICD AND FAS/ITP  
USDA ALSO FOR APHIS

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [TBIO](#) [KFLU](#) [EAID](#) [AMED](#) [EAGR](#) [NI](#)  
SUBJECT: FEB 22 NIGERIA AVIAN FLU - UN MEETING

REF: ABUJA 441

11. (SBU) Summary. The UN Development Program hosted in Abuja on Feb. 22 an information session on AI in Nigeria attended by international diplomatic and aid representatives. With some prompting, the Abuja UN Resident Coordinator's Office agreed to create "soon" a matrix to record international contributions, to avoid duplication of AI assistance. The WHO representative said the United Nations would support the GON in coming up with a plan for its mid-term AI needs for logistics and equipment. Reporting on cases of AI in Nigeria is proving inconsistent. A CDC official noted that nationally in Nigeria, AI surveillance is so passive and so poorly understood that it is not possible currently to judge how AI is developing. End summary.

UN officials on coordinating aid donations  
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12. (U) The UN Development Program (UNDP) hosted in Abuja on Feb. 22 an information session on avian influenza (AI) in Nigeria attended by UN, African Union, U.S, UK, French, Japanese, and Canadian representatives. The United Nations called for avian vaccinations to be used in Nigeria in conjunction with other anti-AI measures. Although the Nigerian Ministry of Health was calling for the establishment of a network of six to seven testing laboratories, with a reference laboratory in Abuja, the UNDP supported there being no more than four labs, with a reference laboratory doing a larger share of work than other laboratories. A Centers for Disease Control (CDC) official said there was currently a delay in shipping specimens abroad for testing because the shipper of choice did not currently provide this service. Negotiations were under way with Federal Express to begin specimen-shipping service in Nigeria.

13. (SBU) USG officials previously had receiving conflicting information about whether the UN agencies would coordinate the AI assistance Nigeria has requested. The World Health Organization's (WHO) representative in Nigeria initially said, "It's open to debate" who should coordinate foreign contributions to Nigeria's anti-AI efforts. With some prompting, the Abuja UN Resident Coordinator's Office agreed

to create "soon" a matrix to record international contributions, to avoid duplication. The WHO representative said the United Nations would support the Government of Nigeria (GON) in coming up with a plan for its mid-term AI needs for logistics and equipment. An official with the UK's Department for International Development urged that efforts to aid Nigeria against AI not come at the expense, for example, of the country's campaign against polio, because Nigeria's existing institutions already were "very weak."

#### Conflicting details on AI cases

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14. (SBU) Reporting on cases of AI in Nigeria is proving inconsistent. A "UN Situation Report" issued Feb. 22 in Abuja by the United Nations reported confirmed cases of AI only in Bauchi, Plateau, Kano, Kaduna, and Katsina States, while UN officials at the Feb. 22 meeting in Abuja set this figure as six northern Nigerian states. The GON generally bases its definition of a confirmed case of AI on confirmation by its National Veterinary Research Laboratory in Vom. A CDC official noted that nationally in Nigeria, AI surveillance is so passive and so poorly understood that it is not possible currently to judge accurately how AI is developing.

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